



Community health services and climate change: Exploring the sector's capacity to respond

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Abstract:

This study aimed to determine the capacity of metropolitan Community Health Services (CHSs) in Victoria to respond to climate change. This included outlining the current understanding of climate change among the staff of CHSs; documenting the extent to which CHSs implement climate change policy and practices; and identifying the barriers affecting the capacity of CHSs to respond to this issue. Representatives from over half of the CHSs were interviewed in June and July 2007. Results showed that the understanding of climate change by the sector was of a level which was probably similar to that of the general population. Climate change had not yet registered as a strategic issue, however, most CHSs were implementing an array of environmental policies and practices. All participating CHSs believed that climate change is an important issue for Community Health and all wanted to be doing more. Barriers to the capacity of the sector included a lack of policy direction, support, funding and leadership from government. Leadership within CHSs was also identified as an area for strengthening. The provision of clear information about climate change and related evidence based practice would increase the sector's ability to undertake effective action. Results of this study are of potential relevance to other community organisations.

Source: Ask your librarian to help locate this item.

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change;
 surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional, Policymaker

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

Geographic Feature:

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal



resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Australasia

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

Medical Community Engagement:

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup

Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup: Aboriginal people

Other Vulnerable Population: People with chronic diseases

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content